

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Each of the claims has been amended to eliminate the numeric references. Numeric references are not required under U.S. patent law and are given no patentable weight. Accordingly, the amendment to eliminate the numeric references is not a narrowing amendment and is not an amendment entered for purposes of patentability. Independent claims 1 and 6 also have been amended to define the invention more clearly. Additionally, claim 4 has been amended to correct the dependency.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Koehler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,719,573. The Examiner identified elements of the Koehler et al. reference that were considered to be found in the original claims. In this regard, the element 28 of Koehler et al. was considered to be the equivalent of the claimed positioning plate, and the enlarged retention portion 28 of Koehler et al. was considered to be the equivalent of the jig contact.

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to define the insertion holes more clearly. In this regard, each insertion hole is defined as having a width at least equal to the width of the jig contact at all location on the positioning plate between the front and rear faces thereof. This clearly distinguishes from Koehler et al., which has a cross sectionally reduced area on each hole that is significantly smaller than the width of the enlarged retention portion 28 of Koehler et al. that the Examiner compares to the claimed jig contact portion. This significant difference reflects the fact that the enlarged retention portion 28 of Koehler et al. is designed for an entirely different purpose.

Nothing in Koehler et al. would motivate the skilled artisan to revise the Koehler et al. reference in a manner that would bring Koehler et al. closer to the claimed invention. In particular, any such structural revisions would affect the ability of Koehler et al. to perform for its intended purposes.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of Cuff et al. The Cuff et al. reference suffers from exactly the same deficiencies as Koehler et al. as explained above. In particular, the apertures in the panel of Cuff et al. have a stepped cross section, with the smaller cross section defined by the step being cross sectionally smaller than the jig contact. Accordingly, it is submitted that the invention defined by amended independent claims 1 and 6 and their dependent claims is not taught or suggested by Cuff et al.

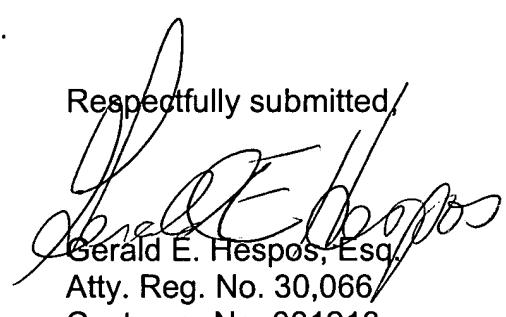
Claims 4, 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Koehler et al. considered in view of Kendall et al. Kendall et al. was cited merely for its teaching of resilient contacts. The Kendall et al. reference, however, does not overcome the deficiencies of Koehler et al. as described above.

Claims 4, 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Cuff et al. considered in view Kendall et al. The Kendall et al. reference was cited for disclosing a resilient contact with deformable portions that are thin as compared to the resilient contact. The Kendall et al. reference does not overcome the above-described deficiencies of Cuff et al. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 4, 9 and 14 are not taught or suggested by the hypothetical combination of Cuff et al. and Kendall et al.

The applicant is pleased to note that claim 15 was allowed as filed. Claim 15 has been amended only to eliminate the numeric references and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the preceding and remarks, it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are directed to patentable subject matter, and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald E. Hespos, Esq.

Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

CASELLA & HESPOS LLP

274 Madison Avenue - Suite 1703

New York, NY 10016

Tel. (212) 725-2450

Fax (212) 725-2452

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